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THE ASTORIAN.

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CITY INTELLIGENCE.

—The A. F. Company have levied an assessment of twenty-five per cent.

—The contract for grading Wall street is to be let on the 18th.

—The bark Windemere arrived yesterday from Victoria, B. C.

—Mr. S. O. L. Potter has completed his survey of Sand Island and Point Adams.

—Capt. Flavel's new pile driver will commence work on Mr. R. Hobson's new wharf to-morrow.

—It is said by sportsmen that trout fishing was never better than at present.

—Mr. S. D. Adair will soon have forty acres of tide land reclaimed by a levy.

—A large sized key was found in town the other day. The owner can have the same by applying to J. W. Eply and proving the same.

—Mr. Gilfry, private secretary of Gov. Grover, is stopping at the Occident Hotel. Mr. Gilfry will remain in town until Wednesday next.

—Our townsmen Collector D. W. Hare, Mr. C. S. Wright, and Judge Philo Callender of Clatsop Plains, returned home on Saturday evening.

—Mr. Sales, of Young's River, laid on our table last week, an onion raised on his farm which measured fourteen inches in circumference.

—The sad intelligence reached Portland on Friday last of the death of Mrs. Ben Holladay near New York city on Wednesday last, the 10th. It was a mistake however.

—Schooner Carolita, Simpson master, arrived at Shoalwater bay on the 10th inst. from San Francisco consigned to Espy & Co., and will return with a load of oysters.

—Sloop Zepha, arrived at same place on the 11th inst. from San Francisco consigned to the Washington Oyster Company, and will return with oysters.

—Col. G. H. Mendell U. S. A., son-in-law of Gen. Adair of this city, had a son born to him last week. Col. Mendell is stationed in San Francisco.

—Mr. J. William Welch purchased two lots last week in Shively's addition to Astoria for \$1,000 00. The lots are the identical ones on which the Astor Company built their fort in 1811.

The *Enterprise* says: "We acknowledge the receipt of \$1 from Capt. J. H. D. Gray of Astoria, a member of the Oregon Pioneer Society, to the Fleming Monument Fund."

The *Oregonian* says that the lively steamer *Oneatta* has been sold to Robert Hume, of the Bay View Fisheries. The sum paid was \$4,000. She is at present laid up at the fishery and will be used to carry the productions of the fishery and in other service as may be required.

WESTPORT ITEMS.

—Messrs. Howe and Stevens are progressing in their work—fitting up the hull of the *Ettie May* for a schooner. She was formerly designed for a steamer.

—The saw mill at this place is running night and day, with two sets of hands.

—A gang of fifty Chinamen are cutting timber and clearing land on the island opposite Westport.

—The frame of the new addition to the cannery is up and will soon be ready for shingling.

—The *Jane West* is towing scows loaded with rock for foundation purposes.

—Mr. Ben Shinkle has received from Portland an iron well and centre board, to be put in his new boat. They cost \$50.

—Mr. McGowan is doing a rushing business in the photographic line.

A correspondent, writing to us from Westport expresses himself thusly: "A cotton blossom, by the name of Louie, has bin down de ribber a huntin fer de Hog's-back. He says he is gwine to start a brush factory if he kin fine it." He further says "this same individual was sent to the logging camp to work, and one of the men told him to get the cant-hook. He hunted all around and happened to see the old mulley cow, and a bright idea struck him. 'Dat ammile can't hook, she am got no horns.' He drove old mulley up to where the men were working, when Morgan says: 'What the d— you doing with that cow up here; where's the cant-hook?' Dar she am; dat is de only ammile in this section dat ise see dat can't hook."

Which P. O. is Meant?

We were a little mistaken in the directions we gave in our last issue as to the names of the Post-offices on the Plains. The following is what we wished to say:

Letters frequently come to the Astoria Post-office directed to "Clatsop" or "Clatsop Plains." There is no Post-office on the "Plains" or in this County having such name. There are two post-offices on Clatsop Plains, one at the landing on Skipanon creek, called "Skipanon"—the other some fifteen miles down the Plains, at the summer watering place, formerly called "Summer House," but now called "Seaside House." Letters for people living on the "Plains" should be directed to "Skipanon," or "Seaside House," as the Post-master must send them to one or the other of these offices.

LIGHTERAGE.

Ship Otago, 895 tons burden, cleared from this port for Cork on Saturday, with 49,345 bushels of wheat, of which amount 24,017 bushels were taken on below the Wallamet river from lighters. The lighterage rates from Portland to Astoria are \$1 50 per ton.

The matter of the ship Otago informed us that he would make a difference of at least seven shillings per ton in favor of a charter to Astoria. The lighterage, pilotage, towage and delays above this place costing fully that amount. Seven shillings = \$1 75, and to lighter the whole cargo here, at the present rates, would be a saving to the farmer of 25 cents per ton, besides the \$1 50 per ton lighterage would ALL go to the river boats instead of only a PART as now, which would be much better than paying river transportation to foreign vessels to carry off out of the country, depleting the finances of our State, and cramping our own boatmen.

But if the grain were all brought down in river boats, \$1 00 per ton would amply pay for bringing it from Portland. It should not however all be brought via Portland. When once on a river boat below the cascades in the Columbia, or on a boat anywhere in the Wallamet, and intended for export, it should proceed directly without handling or stoppage to the mouth of the Columbia, thereby making a saving of at least 75 cents per ton to the farmer over the present management.

Great difficulty is experienced by ship

masters also in securing crews at Portland and getting them down to their vessels which, at the time of sailing, are here.

If the ship stopped here, crews could be obtained here; not perhaps more readily, but still as readily as at Portland, and could be taken immediately aboard without the expenses of transporting and watching them down the river, and the delay of returning to Portland to make good the loss of those deserting on the way down.

Some ship masters have sent to San Francisco for crews, which were brought up by ocean steamers and placed on board the ships, and others have wished that they had done the same.

There is no sound reason for sea vessels going above this place. It would be better for the State if our own people conducted the river transportation even at a trifle higher rates, but when it comes to sending abroad our money to have others do what our own transporting companies would do for less, it impoverishes our citizens and acts the part of the foolish for naught.

TELEGRAPH DISPATCHES.

The United States.

PORTLAND, Sept. 4.—Gold in New York to-day, 111½; Portland Legal Tender rates,—87½ buying, and 88½ selling.

NEW YORK, Sept. 11.—It has been decided to bring Irving here from San Francisco, to see what he knows of the Nathan murder.

The Northern Pacific Railroad Directors, at their meeting in this city yesterday, adopted the following,

Resolved, That the Northern Pacific Railroad Company locate and construct its main road to a point on Puget Sound on the southerly side of Commencement Bay, in township 21, range 4 east of the Wallamet meridian and within the limits of the city of Tacoma, which point in said city of Tacoma is declared to be the western terminus of the main line of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

CHARLESTON (S. C.), Sept. 11.—The mill owners of this city held a meeting to-day, and determined to keep their mill closed until the colored laborers, now on a strike, shall return to work at the usual wages.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12.—The following dispatch was received at the White House this morning:

YANKTON, Dakota, Sept. 12, 1873.

To U. S. Grant, President of the United States—Gen. Edwin S. McCook was assassinated at a public meeting last night by P. P. Wintermute, a banker of this place. (Signed) JOHN A. BURBANK, Gov.

NEW YORK, Sept. 15.—The balloon for Europe is being inflated, and is announced to start this afternoon.

President Orton, of the Western Union Telegraph Company, has been informed that the office at Shreveport, La., is closed, all of the operators being sick with yellow fever.

Pacific Coast Items.

SACRAMENTO, Sept. 12.—In accordance with announcement made yesterday, Gov. Stanford and Mark Hopkins addressed the railroad employees at the shops this afternoon. Both spoke at considerable length, the substance of their remarks being that the recent election having been decided against them the bonds of the company are not now saleable in the East and in Europe. Consequently construction must be stopped, but may be resumed in four or five years. The workmen have been discharged because there is no further use for them, and others will be discharged for the same reason. It is not the intention of the company to remove their shops.

Foreign News.

LONDON, Sept. 12.—6 A. M.—It is reported that the Carlist forces have captured Valcarlos.

Rev. Dr. Lyman, of the United States, has arrived at Constance to attend the Old Catholic Congress.

BAYONNE, Sept. 12.—Cannon and other munitions of war, for Carlists, were landed yesterday at Lequito, on the coast of Biscay.

LISBON, Sept. 12.—Accounts from different sections represent the spine disease as making great havoc.

The Population of Oregon.

The Washington correspondent of the State Journal, under date of Aug. 10th, makes a statement in relation to the last census of Oregon, which shows our population—counting as other States do—is much larger than has been heretofore supposed. He says: "The population of Oregon, in 1870, according to the report made by the officers taking the 9th census, was set down at 90,923. These figures have since been taken without question as the true population, but only that portion classified by the census officers under the head of 'constitutional' and 'representative' population, and is made up as follows: White, 89,819; colored, 946; Chinese, 3,330; Indians, 318; Total, 90,923. According to the report of the superintendent of the 9th census published by authority as a preface to the first, the true population of Oregon, in 1870, was 101,883, (of whom 24,608 were males, twenty-one years of age and upwards) made up as follows: White, 86,926; colored, 346; Chinese, 3,330; Indians, 11,278. Total, 101,883. It will be seen by the above figures, taken from the official report of the superintendent of the census, that in the 'constitutional' and 'representative' population of 90,923, all the negroes and all the Chinese in the State, and 318 Indians, are included, while 10,960 Indians are excluded. In the total, or true population, all the Indians are counted, as in other States, making the population 101,883."

A SERENADE.

From the folds of your snow-white pillow,
My love, my beautiful rise,
And come to the casement window.
Where the wind thro' the cedars sighs;
Star and planet are leaping
Out through the cloudless blue;
Planet and stars are weeping,
And wondering where are you.
The moon, like a royal maiden,
Sits on her cloud-built throne,
And the breath of the dainty tulips
From the garden paths is blown;
Under the drooped narcissus
The bulbul sits and sings,
And the leaves of the rose are blushing
The dew from the wind's light wings.

Under the leafy casement,
Sweet, I am waiting still,
Watching the lamp-lit lattice
Till thy hand on the window-sill
Rustles the dainty rose leaves
That lovingly cluster there,
Sighing till somebody calls them
To twine in your dark brown hair.

My own, my beautiful Nina,
Come, till my love I pour—
Come, till I tell the passion
My heart can hide no more—
Till I sit in the rich, sweet luster
Of thy dark blue eyes divine,
And bless in a blissful rapture
The hour that shall make thee mine.

Shine out, O shimmering planet!
O panting shadow! lie still;
Methinks 'tis the rim of her raiment
I see by the window-sill;
Hush, bulbul under the roses!
Oh, rapture! the hour draws near!
Silence, thou restless zephyr!
'Tis her step, 'tis her voice I hear!

"Do you think we have all gone mad, sir?
In truth, I wish you'd leave off;
I'm dying to-night with a toothache,
And your howling won't cure my cough;
'Tis really strange, 'tis monstrous,
How little of sense remains,
Or even of common politeness,
When folks get love on their brains."

REPUBLICAN NOMINEE.

The Hon. Hiram Smith, of Harrisburg, was nominated by the Republicans at their convention at Albany on Friday last.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

They are experimenting with female horse-car conductors in Savannah.

An international Masonic congress is soon to be held in Kingston, Canada.

Iowa's new capitol is to be built of Minnesota granite, and will cost \$2,000,000.

The Atlantic and Pacific Railroad has started locust plantations along its line with a view to provide material for ties.

A Frenchman has invented a process for making paper out of starch and hopes to make a stiff thing out of it.

The belle of Cape May receives ten baskets of flowers daily from her admirers. She is very beautiful and likewise very wealthy.

A gentleman in Indiana, when asked why he didn't marry and settle down, feelingly replied that he thought more seriously of being divorced and settling up.

A Grange is composed of a master, overseer, lecturer, steward, assistant steward; chaplain, treasurer, secretary and gatekeeper, all gentlemen; and Ceres, Pomona, Flora and a lady assistant steward, all ladies.

Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., of Ledger fame, passes fourteen hours of the twenty-four in sleep. Some declaimers against his species of literature think it would be better for the youth of the land if he would sleep the other ten.

Rufus Porter, aged 85, the original editor of *The Scientific American*, is living at West Birmingham, Conn., and is soliciting shares for a flying machine of his invention.

—Recently the authorities of Cambridge University and a town in England were badly hoaxed. At eleven in the forenoon the mayor received this telegram: "Lieut. Col. Hamilton Crewe, to the Worshipful Mayor of Cambridge: His Imperial Majesty, the Shah of Persia, desires to visit your university and town, en route to London, arriving at Cambridge station about 1:10. Be prepared with escort and reception as far as time allows." The unsuspecting mayor notified the Vice Chancellor and other university officials and heads of colleges as well as the public generally. The town council was summoned, the rifle volunteers called out, and every preparation was made to welcome the royal Persian. Business was suspended, the town was gayly decorated with flags, and the streets were crowded. The Vice-Chancellor, the Mayor, the members of the Corporation, and the volunteers, with some fifteen hundred people, assembled at the railway station. A carriage with four grays was in attendance for the Shah. At length the authority of the telegram was doubted, and after waiting until half past two the Mayor became convinced that he had been the victim of a hoax. The telegram was written on an official form and enclosed in an official envelope. It had a blank stamp, the date in the centre of "Cambridge" having been filled in with a pencil. The local telegraph authorities had no knowledge of such a message, and asserted that it had never passed through their office. Many persons were very much amused at the practical joke, while other citizens were very indignant.